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McNamara Economic Chib Speech 18 November 1963

Essert long this Administration will be presenting, once again, the details of a proposed metional defence lendget for the consideration of the Congress and the public. Given the importance of these matters, their complexities and unsertainties and the emistence of the confiderance of opinion, a degree of controversy is the vitable, and even desirable.

Some controversies, however, reveal underlying differences in

William the Some critics suggest that we have literally hundreds of same world. Actinochamber the Some critics suggest that we have literally hundreds of times more strength than we need; others accuse us of risking the whole trainguite all accuse the Sometone continuous we choose to add one in the parameters of careful analysis we choose to add one in the corresponding another.

System of weapons over another.

But a discrepancy of that order cannot be reasouring. Rather, it indicates that we have failed to convey to some part of our audience even the broadest outlines, as we see them, of the problems that our military stackery and force structure are macual to address. I believe we should be able to move from controversy on that scale toward concensus in military affairs, not always on details or compensate of our policies, but at I had an appropriation of the major makes of

somethy problems confronting to, on the bread alternative paths to their solution and on the Cominant goals, chatastics, costs and wishe affecting choice. My purpose in specifing to yet this evening to to help move in this direction.

As a probude, then, to the coming season of detects. I should him to identify and discuss some basic mutters on which a sensitionable possible degree of consensus seems to me both/conscitable and decisable although by no means assured.

Those include those ever-all comparative strengths and wealmosess of the opposing military ellicases that from the bold relief in the strategic environment. In short, they are the considerations that seem to have relatively long-term significance compared to the annual budget cycle.

Matters of that degree of permissions tend to be stamped on our minds as being unchanging and unchangeable, the unquestioned framework of daily and yearly policy-making. Yet these factors of which I shall a peak do change: more swiftly and more profoundly than our planare of them tends to change. Indeed, I believe it is just the fact that over the while last decade this topography has changed --/but many maps have not -- that accounts for some apparently irreconcilable controversies.

Let me recall the cartier period briefly, for comparison. The strategic landscape at the outcot of the Fifties was deminated by two

outsignaling footures. One was the prestited U.S. monepoly of fallwere able, strategic product weapons. The office was the Seviet Union and Communict Chine's virtual memoraly of ground force on the continue of Europe and Asia.

Both of those landmontes of Wortern military policy had an included considerably by the end of the Nervan West. The Soutest had gradient atomic emplosions and had escaped a simple emplocal delivery emphility against Europe, while NATO ground forces had empanded repidly, and military operations in Nerva had greatly termished the significance of Chinese Communist superiority in numbers. But the old notions of managedy persisted as short-out side to thinking on policy matters.

And they were not so misleading as they came later to be. Soviet armed forces approaching five million man still heavily outwelfhed the NATO forces in Europe; and Soviet delivery capability against the U.S. was dwarfed by that of SAC. Moreever, tactical nuclear weapone were being herelded as a new muclear measpely for the West.

ideas about the feasibility of alternative policies cominued to reflect them. So did ideas about how wass might be fought. Nuclear operations, both strategic and tastical, by the U.S. in response to Soviet aggression against our allies, would be virtually unlikeout. Measant was or the problem of emofility of the U.S. wespense weall successly sales.

even in the case of relatively limited Seviet aggressions. Western reliance upon muclear weapons, in passionles stationic cyclems, both to deter and to oppose non-austicas estack of any sine occurs not cally also unique in its occupant.

These post of citration to convenient for policy-makens. It makes policy eacy to choose and easy to captain. Posters that is at the surject most of the Privios, while the Saviste under verious processes decreased their ground forces and the NATO elices built finited up, and while the Saviste negative acquired a massive nuclear threats against Europe and half the groundwork for a circle threat against the U.S., the picture underlying most policy debate remained/that appropriate to 1949. It was/flux picture of a Communict Collects in conventional example facing a Western David, Loverwhelmingly superior almost naived of conventional example processed of afactors plant.

Formed the end of their decade, the prospect that the Soviete would acquire SCERE at a time when our strategic forces consisted almost entirely of bermbers forced our extension and our budget even more charply than before upon our strategic forces. The ungency of the problem of determing the most massive of attacks was a new reason for thinking that the West could open not there reconsess nor thought to deal more openifically with leason threats. The most ungent task was to provide for detectors of massive aggression by assuring the acceptal makes to a provide for detectors of massive aggression by assuring the acceptal makes of a time of a strategic of a st

potential attacker, to destroy his coclety in refellation. It was now to the assurance of communed muslear superiority that proceed the assurance of policy-malians but, on the contrary, the struggle to maintain it. - [1-postpored the process-of-resummining this [1-beaution of realization of policies—for foreign with this process of the process of th

Entriced and justified. The old energ, which assumed a U.S. muclear monopoly, both strategic and tastical, and a Communist monopoly of ground combat strongth, are too far removed from reality to serve as even rough guides. Neither we nor our allies can afford the crudities of maps that told up that old policies are call forced upon us, when a true pleture would show important new avenues of choice, necessity and choice,

What most noof, changing is a picture of cursolves and of the ...
Western Alliance as essentially at boy, outmanted and outgunded except for nuclear arms no longer employed outs. We should not think of ourselves as forced by limitations of resources to rely upon strategies of dispersion and threats of vast materi destruction, compelled to deal only with the most massive and immediate challenges, letting lesses ones go by default. It would be a striking historical phonomenon if that colf-image chould be justified. We are the largest member of an Allianse with a population of almost 430 million people, an agrange a canual product which is fact approaching a satisfied of facing the

Soviet Union and its European satellites with their hundred million fewer people and an aggregate output no more than half that of the West.

And

/Environment of the appear forces in a second them and orderlying of the outdated picture I have described of the West, makenglesome takes no excount of the makenglesome takes no excount of the makenglesome takes no excount of the makenglesome engal littles in being that our investments over the last decade, and epochilently in the last few years, have bought for no. If now problems gut offers change the new problems gut offers change the new problems gut offers change the new problems gut offers because we have come a large past of the way that is feasible toward solving some old ones.

Let me summarize the current status of the balance of strategic muclear forces, that part of the military environment that has proceedyful our attention for so long. In strictly relative nemotical terms, the situation is the familiar one. The U.S. force now contains more than 500 operational long-range ballistic missiles -- ATLAS, TITAN, MINUTEMAN, POLARIS -- and is planted to increase to ever 1700 by 1966. There is no doubt in our minds and none in the minds of the Soviets that these missiles can penetrate to their targets. In addition, the U.S. has SAC bombers on air alert and over 500 SAC bombers on quick reaction ground about. By comparison, the consensus is that today about the Seviets could place/less shabiled as many bombers ever North America on a first strike. The Seviets are estimated to have today only a fraction as many SCOLE miscelles as we do. Fracthermore, that

Seviot missile deres directioning Bereg soud Newthelmosters

The most wishaul of Soviet planmond, under the most conditional conditions, would have to calculate as a certainty that the most colorities surprise thank they could launch would still leave/the NATO Alliesse with the capability to destroy the attacker's society. What is equally pertinent is that the relative numbers and survivability of U.S. strategic retaliate against forces would permit us to/sever all the ungent Soviet military targets are subject to attack, contributing that/ear-be covered, and thus/sembolics to the limitation of damage to correctes and our allies.

Deterrence of deliberate, calculated attack seems as well accured as it can be, and the damage-limiting capability of our numerically superior forces is, I believe, well worth its incremental cost. It is a capability to which the smaller forces of the Soviet Union could not realisateally aspire. That is one reason, among ethers, why I would not trade our strategic posture for that of the Soviets at any point during the coming decade.

Eut given the kind of force that the Soviets are building, place the Soviets could the Soviets could camage and which/we-cam-kimit the-Seviet-capability-to inflict on us and no matter what we do to limit it, our allies/remains/inflict, capability high.

That has been true for our allies ever since the mid its call has "Tiffies. Soviet acquisition of a sizable delivery capability against the U.S., and more eignificantly their cognisition of relatively pressered forces, submarine-launched or hardened, has been long and often promoterely heralded. Its arrival at last merely dramatices the need to recognize that strategic nuclear war would under all forcecable circumstances be bilateral. It and highly destructive to both sides.

Larger budgets for U.S. strategic forces would not change that fact. They could have only a decreasing incremental effect in limiting the damage that the U.S. and its allies could suffer in a general nuclear war. In short, we cannot buy the capability to make a strategic bombing campaign once again a unilateral prospect.

That must, I suggest, be accepted as one of the landmarks affecting policy. Another is that the same situation confronts the Soviet Leaders, in a way that is even more intensely confining. In fact, enormous increases in Soviet budgets would be required for them to achieve any significant degree of damage-limiting capability. The present Soviet leaders show no tendemoy to challenge the basis of the U.S. strategic determent posture by such expanditures.

In the last two years alone, we have increased the manifer of nuclear washeads in the strategic elect forces by 100%. During that period we have more than doubled the magatornege of the strategic elect forces. The fact that further increases in strategic forces also will at lest encounter repliely diminishing returns -- which is largely an effect of the very large investments the U.S. has made in this area -- should be reflected in future budgets. The funding for the initial introduction of wheelfare into our forces in the sing energiation. We can unitained that the cannot expenditure on strategic forces will drop substantially, and level off well below the present rate of spending. This is not to rule out the possibility that research now in progress on possible new technological developments, including the possibility of useful belliable missile defenses, will require major now expenditures. In any event, there will be recurring costs of modernization.

In the field of tactical auclear weapons, the picture is in important respects similar. The U.S. at present has in stockylle or planned for stockylle tens of thousands of nuclear employives for tactical use on the battlefield, in anti-submarine warfare and against aircraft. They include warheads for artillery, battlefield missiles, demolitien munitions, bembs, depth charges, air-to-air missiles and surface-to-air missiles. The concensus is that the U.S. is presently substantially superior in design, diversity and numbers in this class of weapons. Inchargest

This is an indispensable superiority, as we can reactly understand if we consider how our problems of strategic choice would be altered if the tables were reversed and it were the Soviet Union which held a commanding lead in this field. Nevertheless, what we have is superiority, not monopoly, and even if it can be limited, below some ill-defined threshold of strategic exchange, the key fact is that if the West initiates such actions in the future, tactron-nuclear warfare must be empected to be bilateral, in any theater which engaged the Soviet Union. Again, we cannot buy back a monopoly, or the assurance of unilateral use.

Finally, those is the case of what we sall the general purpose forces. Within the last two years, we have increased the number of cas combet-ready Army divisions by about 45%, from 11 to 16. There has been a 30% increase in the number of technal air equadrons; a funds-for 75% increase in airlift capabilities; and a 183% increase in policy construction and conversion to mederation the floot.

But it is not only force size that matters. The key to the effective utilization of those forces in sembet readiness and mobility.

The most recent Commonstration of our skilling to reinforce our treeps presently stationed in Europe cocurred last month in Operation and Larra, the first of a series of planaed large-scale energies according the laid the Root and the For Rast as well. For the first first in military one contil and to employ, the test of the first first in military into the parties of the first first in military.

That movement could never have been excomplished without a massive.

increase in our cirlist capability, which is call being expanded. (II will have risen 400% between 1961 and 1967.) It required the development of new techniques to preposition combet equipment, of which we have two and three shiploads in a lower floating departing ablaic Days we extra division acts now in Europe. It cannot for new to similar the first maining and administration to make sume that units are really ready to move out on a moment's notice. This encouries, in which some 16,000 airmon and soldiers and more than 250 planes took part, is directly relevant to the needs of Durope, where it brought a seventh division to join the sin that are to remain in place. It is also relevant to the ability of the U.S. to fulfill its policy constituents worldwide, sowiftly and in effective strongth.

But, it might be asked, what is the relevance of all this to the realistic security problems of the United States and its allies? To what contingencies are those forces expected to contribute, and how effective might they be, measured against the strength of apposing forces? How meaningful is it to talk of 16 or 23 or 30 divisions in opposing the ground armies of the Soviet Union and Communist China?

Such questions are often meant to be marsly rhetorical, in view of the supposed masses of Communist troops. The fact is that they are serious, difficult questions, to which I shall suggest some tentative answers. But it is difficult to encourage realistic dispussions of specific contingencies so long as the shadow of the Communist horde

inage unchallenged ever the debate. The actual contingencies that even to be to me most likely and most alguideant are not those which would or Chinese Communist involve all, or even a major paul, of the Soviet blocharmed forces, and not determine figures of armed strongth/are not immediately unless of NATO and the Warsaw Pact nations to them. But it is useful to make those everall comparisons, 42-1141.

of these very aggregates often produce an attitude of hopeleseness emywhere toward any attempt to propage to meet Communist forces/in ground combet, however limited in scepe.

The amnounced total of Soviet asked forces for 1955 was indeed o formidable 5.75 million men. Boday that Agure has been out to about 3.3 million; the Warsow Pact total including the Soviets is only about 4. F million. Against that, it is today the members of NATO whose active armed forces number & Orallication ton-mond. The ground forces of NATO notions ptotal 3.2 million, of which 2.2 million mon are in Europe, as against ground combat forces the Soviet (humpes-active-unit) total of about 2 million men, and a Wargary. Out of these totals, both the Soviet Union and the U.S. have forces stationed (Meb) Part total of about 3 million./ In Central Europe, NATO has more man, in the Far East. and more combat troops, on the ground than does the Bloc. It has more man on the ground in West Garmany than the Blee does in East Garmany. Moreover, many of the extellist units are per doubtful chilley and colicbility ධ්ය විය අදහස් දී ක්රේස් අද ක්රේස් ක්රේස් ක්සැන්වරුව වන කොල කිරී එක් විරවරය එයවසියක්

alreading These planes on the average can count tuise the payload

twice as far as the Seviet counterparts.

These facts are hard to reconcile with the familiar picture of the Russian Army as incomparably massive. The name index cited to suppose that picture is numbers of total active divictions, and the specific mamber familiar from the past is 175 divisions in the Caviet Lappy.

This total, if true, would indeed guesons a paradon, allows, conconsus of the intelligence community that two million mandous compared to about one million for the U.S., How is it that the Soviete can mustor ton times the number of active, combat-ready, fully-manned divisions that the United States has manned, with only twice as many men on active duty? The answer is simply that they do not. Recent intensive investigation has shown that the number of active Soviet divisions that are maintained at manning levels anywhere close to combat readings is less than half of the 160-175 figure.

What remains is a large number, but even that is misleading.

For one thing, U.S. divisions have about twice as many men in the division unit and its immediate combat supporting units as comparable Soviet divisions. A U.S. mechanised division has 36% more personnel in maneuvering units, 200% more in armoved cavalry, 26% more engineers, 110% more signals, 58% more life armoved personnel carriers.

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and 2000% more aircraft available in support than Soviet divisions. In addition to Songer staying power, much of the U.S. manpower and equipment margin is musels that would make itself felt on Dellay. If, on the other hand, we were to reorganize along Coviet Minus, we would display for greater numbers of divisions comparable to those of the Soviets.

The Soviet combet-ready force commins a formicable case. Moreover, the Rescience do have a powerful mobilization capability; in particular, they have a large number of lightly manuel or called divisions to be filled out on mobilization. Still, this reality remains attributely different from our accustomed maps of it.

The net wish to suggest that such aggregate compasisons are by themselves a valid index to military capabilities. But they are enough to auggest the aboundity, as a plotture of the provailing military strongths on which new efforts might build, of David and Golisth notions borrowed from 1949.

None of this is to say that NATO strength on the ground in Europe to adequate to turn back without nuclear weapons an all-out surprise non-nuclear attack. District forestable to be shaden for soveral

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Justin de la for rule of contingent

that is.

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the recent and future improvements in the mobility and capabilities of U.S. general purpose forces are primarily oriented. Aggression on that scale would mean a war about the future of Dureye and, as a consequence, the future of the U.S. and the USSR. In the face of threate of that magnitude, our nuclear superiority remains him of volevant to deterrence. The Seviete know that even non-nucleur experience at that high and of the spectrum of conflict so threatens our most vital interests that we and our allies are prepared to make whatever response may be required to defeat it, no matter how therefore the consequences for our own society.

The probability that the Soviet leaders would choose to invoke that exchange seems to me very low indeed. They know well what even the Chinese Communist leaders raust scon-learn, that a nuclear war would mean destruction of everything they have built up for themselves, since Lenin arrived at the Finland Station, less than 50 years.

If we were to consider a spectrum of the possible cases of

Communist aggression, then, ranging from harassment, covert aggression
and indirect challenge at one and of the scale to the massive invasion of

Western Europe or a full scale analysis strike against the West at the

other end, it is clear that our made a superiority has been and should

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Insert, page 17:

I know of no one strategic rule which can define the ideal balance of readiness for all contingencies everywhere. No commander ever has everything he wants. We and our allies together have hard choices to make, and it is urgent that we should find paths toward closer agreement and more effective common action. I do not wish, today, to prejudge the decisions of NATO, or the response of our allies, or to insist on a single simple rule.

in general, and the U.S. Armed Forces in particular, have greater and the U.S. Armed Forces in particular, have greater and the force of the Alliance of the force of the forc

defense of Europe have a combined explosive strength more than 15,000 times the force of the nuclear weapons used to end the Second War.

Tactical nuclear strength the Alliance has today, and we have provided it.

But neither we nor our Allies can find the detonation of such weapons -- and their inevitable bilateral exchange -- an easy first choice. At the lower end of the spectrum, therefore, we also need strong and ready conventional forces. We have done our part here, +- and we continue to believe it just -- and practicable -- for our partners to do theirs.

continue to be an effective determent to aggression at the high and although a poetrum. It is equally clear, on the other hand, that at the very low may not be fully (3.8% and of the operation a nuclear response/so not then appropriate east at this level

/in the future any more than it has been in the past.

The most difficult questions arise over the best manus in many best mosting a variety of dangerous intermediate challenges, those

immediate tasse of the national survival of ourselves or of any member of our elliances. For chample, the past ten years have witnessed the

threaten the pecelbility of simplife realists while attil met relating the

violent Series suppression of upsidings in Bast Germany, Polens, and

Hengary, etternito at aubversion in Alutea, moves against the Olichore

Islands, pressure on Berlin and a year ago, the most dangerous gamble

of the post-war ora in Cuba. Evidently, guelous power did not engaged

in descring these actions or attempts, nor would it, have been chiviously

exproprieto in Cacling with any reculting conflicts.

(now) Similar Conflicts might arise out of Soviet subversion and political aggression backed up by military measures in non-NATO areas in Europe, Letin America, the Middle East and Africa. There is a range of challenges that could arise from Communist China and its exhalling in the Far East and in Southeast Asia. Most dangerously, appreaching

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the upper and of the spectrum, there is the possibility of Manital Coviet pressures on NATO territory itself, clong the vast front running from Norway to Greece and Turkey. Both the Manks and the conter contain And always, potential targets. /Above-all, of course, there are the continguacies that could arise in relation to Berlin.

might be, although they must be regarded as more likely than still larger aggressions. What one can say is that if any of those more likely contingencies should arise, they would be highly dangerous. Inaction, or weak action, could result in a serious sotback, missed opportunity or even disaster. In fact, if either a mealety arise from a conflict on a lesser scale, which Western capabilities had failed to deter and which an inadequate Western response had failed to curb in time.

(See insert)

Since World War II, the expensionist impulse of the Communist Bloc is clear, but equally clear is its desire to avoid direct confrontation with the military forces of the free world. In Greece, in Derlin, off-the coast of China, and in Cuba, Communists have probed for the military and political weakness but when they have encountered reheld back sistence, they have/retreated. Not only Communist destrine has counted this caution, but respect for the danger that any signific, event conflict would lead to nuclear way. It would follow that no

lands the

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Levels of challenge than the assurance that such moves would containly must prompt, effective military responds by the West. That responds frustration of their purposes could confront the Seviets with/head-defeat-defeat-ex-with/head-defeat-defeat-ex-hidden and unless they chose themselves to escalate the conflict to a nuclear exchange, or to levels that make anchear wher highly probable -- a choice they are units of make in the face of our superficient.

The basis for that particular assurance cannot be systems in development, or weapons in storage depots, or reserves that must be mobilized, trained and equipped, or troops without transport. We need the right combination of forward deployment and highly mobile combat-ready ground, see and air units, capable of prompt and effective commitment to notate combat, including tractical allements employment; in short, the cort of capability we are increasingly building in our forces, of us -- as of our Allies --

This capability requires/a military establishment that is, in the President's words from and fit. We must stop and ask surrelives before deciding whether to add a new and complete weapons system to our inventory, whother it is really the most effective way to do the job under the rigorous conditions of combat. We must emarsine constantly the possibilities for combining functions, passibilities for weapons that could be used by two or more Services. Given this tough-minded sense of reality along the veguines of combat realities, it should be possible.

maintain but to expand this increased strength without everall increases in our defense budget. As our national productivity and our greek national product expand, the defense budget therefore used not know pace. Indeed, in relative 1-2 and perhaps even absolute 7- terms to appears likely that measured/sub-knobsoluta-and-and-and-therefore terms a little.

defence budget will level off and perhaps decline/albylady. At the came time, we are continuing the essential effort to reduce the impact of neither espending on our balance of payments. We have already brought this figure down from \$2.7 billion in FY 1961 to \$1.7 billion for FY 1963, and we shall continue to reduce it, without reducing the combet ground forces deployed in Europe, and while strongthening our everall combet effectiveness.

forces to the will to use them. That his one to use them, if necessary, in actual combat, and against medoca, well-equipped units of comparable cise: including, if need be, Seviet treeps.

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they were again to miscalculate as dangerously as they this a pean age, it would be essential to confront them, wherever that might be, with the same proupost that confronted them in Coher the cortainty of immediate, appropriate, and full effective military section.

And the less ingredient was also there: The will to use there of several services and services and services in services.

And the less and mobility that had been building over the proceeding and services. We had a half, including combat readiness and mobility that had been building over the proceeding and the services and mobility that had been building over the proceeding and the services and mobility that had been building over the proceeding the services and mobility that had been building over the proceeding the services and mobility that had been building over the proceeding the services and a half, including combat divisions, the transport, and too there against Soviet troops and equipment.

Let us not colude ourselves with obsolete images into believing that our nuclear strength, great as it is, solves all of our problems of national security, or that we lack the strengths to meet these problems that it does not solve. In the contingencies that really threaten -- the and our allies sort that occursed and will occur again -- we/need no longer choose to

live with the sense or the reality of inferiority to the Saviet Blacks relevant, effective force. Let us be fully aware of the wide range of our military resources, and the freedom they can give us to pursue the peaceful objectives. If the free world without four of military against the free world without four of military against ten.